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Meth: New steps on tap for security

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said. Full details of the probe were not available because task force members were "skiing at Mount Shasta," said Jack Nehr, special agent in charge of the region's Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, which oversees the Shasta County Interagency Narcotics Task Force.

A Shasta College narcotics probe began last month after a routine visit to the mobile home of a student who was on probation.

The visit uncovered evidence of a working methamphetamine lab and resulted in a task force raid Feb. 17 at the Happy Valley home of Ronald Martin Adkins, 25, and his girlfriend, 24-year-old Leelani Marci English. Both are Shasta College students and student employees working in the science department – Adkins in the chemistry lab, Vanderwerf said.

Officers found an ounce of methamphetamine, as well as explosive chemicals used to manufacture the drug in the couple's enclosed back yard and porch. When their search was almost complete, task force members received a tip that Adkins had another lab nearby, according to a Shasta Interagency Narcotics Task Force news release.

At the second Happy Valley residence, officers found 12 large coolers that contained 200 different types of chemicals and a "vast amount of glassware used in chemical synthesis," according to the task force statement.

Shasta College's Vanderwerf said the glassware was marked as property of the college's chemistry department. College officials were contacted about the finding and then hired an investigator to conduct an internal probe, Vanderwerf said.

Drug agents searched Kel's office and home Wednesday. They found marijuana, methamphetamine pipes, weapons, college lab equipment and chemicals that will be tested for any sign of methamphetamine production, according to the task force and campus officials.

That same day, agents found explosives in the home of another couple. Arrested on "possession of explosives maintained in a reckless manner" was Marvin Flatt, 54, and his wife, Catherine Flatt, 52. Catherine Flatt is a student at Shasta College and worked with Adkins in the chemistry lab, campus officials said.

Shasta College is preparing disciplinary proceedings for the students involved, Vanderwerf said. New security safeguards are planned, including a key card entry system to equipment areas and fingerprinting and background checks of student employees.

Kel and Miller posted bail and were released from the Shasta County jail. Kel was arrested for a number of alleged offenses, including embezzlement, possession of stolen property, possession of more than an ounce of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine pipes, and Fish and Game violations. Agents said more charges could be added as a result of an analysis of chemicals found in her home.

Miller was arrested on the same charges, with the exception of embezzlement.

Adkins was arrested on several drug charges, including suspicion of manufacturing methamphetamine. He and English were also facing three counts of child endangerment because three children lived in their home, task force officials said.

Friday evening, Adkins was still in custody with bail set at $100,000. English had been released on her own recognizance, jail officials said.

A sixth person, Adam Terry, 19, was arrested on three misdemeanor warrants. Terry was not a student, officials said, and his involvement was not explained in the task force statements.

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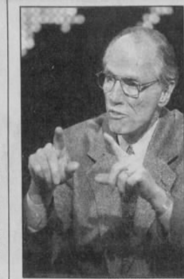
Jones: Bush 'heartened' by ban's end



Associated Press photograph
Bob Jones III is interviewed on "Larry King Live" on Friday in Washington.

> "I just want everyone to understand that the liberals were all wrong when they said we were racist, they were all wrong when they looked at our rule and drew a conclusion about us that was so unflattering and so untrue."
>
> Bob Jones III

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cle for people to see what the school is really about."

"As of today, we've dropped the rule," he said.

Jones, 60, said he hopes the end of the dating ban will signal an end to the media accusing the university of racism.

"I just want everyone to understand that the liberals were all wrong when they said we were racist, they were all wrong when they looked at our rule and drew a conclusion about us that was so unflattering and so untrue," Jones said. "I just wanted to, you know, take this club out of their hand. That's the only thing I wanted to do."

Jones said he met with his administrators Friday at the Greenville, S.C., school. That's when they decided to end the policy, which became national news when Bush spoke on the campus Feb. 2.

Within minutes of Friday night's announcement, Bush issued a statement saying he was "heartened" by the removal of the ban. "It was wrong to begin with and that's why I spoke out against the ban when I was asked about it at a news conference immediately after my visit there," Bush said. "Tonight, the school has done the right thing."

The dating ban, and the school's anti-Catholic teachings, have haunted Bush since he was wildly applauded by 5,000 students at his speech. Bush did not condemn the school's teachings in his speech. His rival for the Republican nomination, Arizona Sen. John McCain, has repeatedly denounced Bush for his silence, saying he would have "told them to get out of the 16th century and into the 21st."

After losing South Carolina, McCain's campaign made "Catholic voter alert" calls in the next states, Michigan and Washington, to tell them of Bush's visit to Bob Jones.

Scrambling to salve the damage, Bush sent a letter to Cardinal John O'Connor and other Catholic officials saying he regretted he had missed the opportunity to disassociate himself "from anti-Catholic sentiment and racial prejudice."

The university's policy arose in the 1950s when an Asian family threatened to sue after their son, a student, almost married a white girl, a school spokesman has said. In the past, Bob Jones had defended the policy based on a biblical interpretation that God created people differently for a reason.

The school continued to ban interracial dating even after it began admitting black students in the 1970s. It lost its tax exemption in 1983 after a 13-year battle with the Internal Revenue Service that cited the school's discrimination.

More than 500 Bob Jones students watched Jones' appearance Friday on a giant screen at a campus auditorium. Students applauded throughout, said Shannan Patrick, a junior from Wisconsin. She said she and others were surprised that the school had dropped the ban, but most seemed to back Jones.

"We are very proud of what Dr. Bob said," Patrick said. "He presented the students' views very well."

Jones' CNN appearance was the cornerstone of the 73-year-old school's fiery response to its critics. The university took out a full-page ad in USA Today and several South Carolina newspapers Friday, defending its right to set whatever rules it wants for its student body.

In the "Letter to the Nation" ad, Jones wrote: "We do not expect everyone to agree with us or like us. The cross of Jesus Christ is a dividing line for some."

Jones blamed the controversy surrounding Bush's visit to the campus on the media and McCain. He said former Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, as well as other GOP candidates, have spoken on campus without incident.

"This was purely political," Jones said of the brouhaha over Bush initially not challenging the university's policies.

Jones said he supports Bush and believes that BJU will continue to be an issue through the November election.

The other GOP presidential candidates reacted positively to the rule change.

McCain said: "It's the right thing to do."

Alan Keyes, who recently spoke at Bob Jones, said he thought lifting the ban was "a good step forward."

"As you know I'm married to an Indian American, so our marriage would have violated their own guidelines," he said.

Jones touched on a number of other issues during his appearance with King:

Though he continued calling the pope the "Antichrist," Jones insisted the university does not hate Catholics.

"We love Catholics," Jones said. "We want everyone to come to Christ. Having differences with the beliefs of another person doesn't make us intolerant. The pope doesn't go down well with Protestants."

He defended the school's strict rules regarding student behavior – curfews, dress codes, no rock music – and its ban on much secular literature and other material. He said students are not allowed to read plays by Tennessee Williams. "Garbage in, garbage out," Jones said.

He said students found to be homosexual would not be allowed to continue on campus, calling homosexuality a sin much like adultery or thievery.

If nothing else comes out of having his school at the center of the presidential campaign, Jones said he hopes people will come to see Bible-believing Christians as the world's "most misunderstood and despised minority in America."

Asked if he expects any more candidates to offer to speak at his university, Jones said, "I think it'll be a long time before they would be free to come."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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